Message Text

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R 240802Z MAR 77 FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7567 INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN AMEMBASSY CAIRO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS AMEMBASSY JIDDA AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS KUWAIT 1531

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLO, PFOR, KU
SUBJECT: KUWAITI REACTION TO PALESTINIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL
(PNC) MEETING

1. OFFICIAL REACTION. THE ONLY OFFICIAL PUBLIC KUWAIT REACTION TO THE CAIRO PNC MEETING SO FAR HAS BEEN A BRIEF COMMENTARY TO THE PRESS (AL QABAS, MARCH 23) BY MINISTER FOR CABINET AFFAIRS HUSSEIN. HE ASSERTED THAT THE PLO'S POSITION "ES ESTABLISHED AND HAS NOT CHANGED," BUT HE WAS REPORTEDLY CRITICAL OF THE USG:" WASHINGTON WANTS THE PALESTINIANS TO GIVE UP THEIR ESTABLISHED POSITION AND ... WHEN IT TALKS ABOUT MAKING PROGRESS IN THE PALESTINIAN POSITION, IT MEANS IN REALITY PALESTINIAN CONCESSIONS . . ."

2. EDITORIAL REACTION. THE GENERAL EDITORIAL REACTION IS CONSISTENT ON TWO POINTS -- THE PLO IS SOMEWHAT MORE UNIFIED NOW AS A RESULT OF THE PNC MEETING, WHICH IS VIEWED AS A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT, AND THE PLO POSITION ON SETTLEMENT WITH ISRAEL HAS MODERATED SOMEWHAT. ON THIS LATTER POINT, THE WEIGHT OF EDITORIAL UNCLASSIFIED

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OPINION IS THAT THIS MODERATION IS VIEWED AS AN UNDESIRABLE TREND FRAUGHT WITH DANGERS (I.E. POSSIBLE EVENTUAL ABANDONMENT OF THE CLAIM TO ALL OF PALESTINE, FUTURE SERIOUS SPLITS IN THE PLO, ABANDONMENT OF ARMED STRUGGLE IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES). THERE IS, HOWEVER, RELATIVELY LITTLE CRITICISM OF THE PLO'S DECISION IN PRINCIPLE TO GO TO GENEVA.

3. COMMENT: IT SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND THAT THE EDITORIAL STAFFS OF MOST KUWAITI PAPERS ARE DOMINATED BY MORE MILITANT MEMBERS OF KUWAIT'S PALESTINIAN COMMUNITY WHO TEND TO BE HIGHLY CYNICAL ABOUT MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROSPECTS AND EXTREMELY CRITICAL OF PEACE PROPOSALS WHICH ARE NOT HEAVILY WEIGHTED IN PLO FAVOR. MAESTRONE

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